

# Honors Physics

## Ch 3. Vectors

### Lesson 1: Vectors in 1-D

**Vectors** - have magnitude and direction

**Scalars** - have magnitude only

### Notation

$\longrightarrow$  Vector symbol     $\vec{A}$  = Vector

$A$  = Scalar

$\hat{x}$  Unit vector     $\hat{x} = 1$  unit in the x-direction

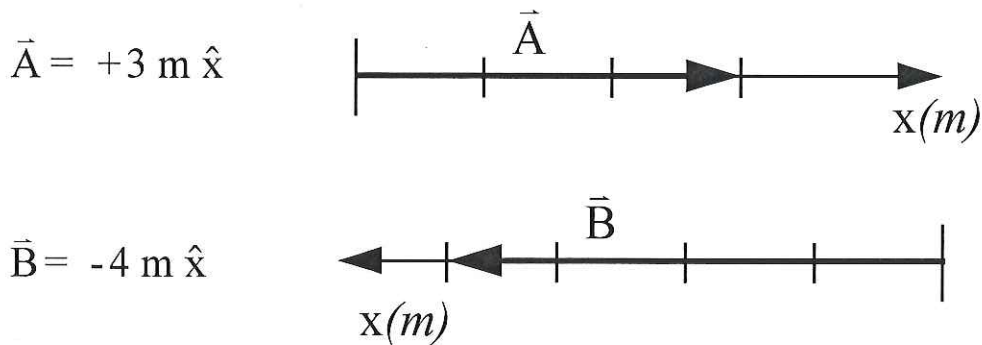
### Vectors - Graphical Representation

Vectors can be represented using “arrows”

Length of the arrow = magnitude

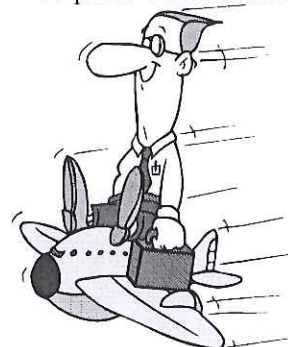
Direction the arrow points = direction (given by unit vector or angle  $\theta$ )

**Example:** “Positions represent vectors because they are defined relative to an origin.”



Positions have distance (magnitude) from the origin and they have direction from the origin.

AIPLANE Pilot : Captn. Roger Over  
Co-pilot: Victor Murdock



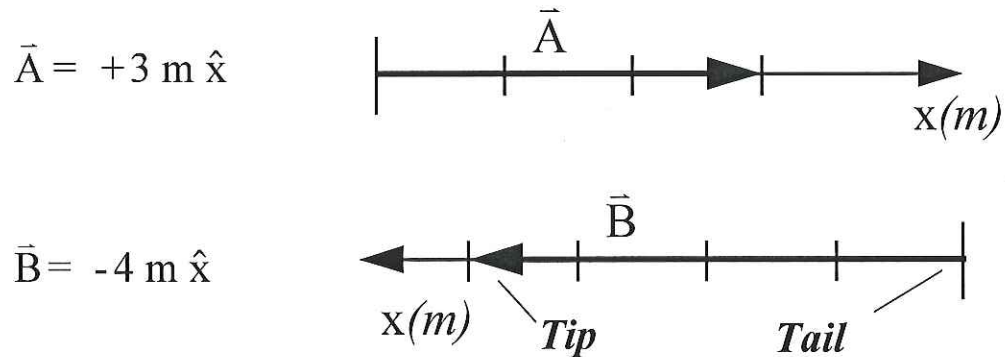
What's your vector Victor? -Over  
Captain Over- heading at vector 4-9EER-3 - Over  
Roger, Roger, Victor - Over

## Vector Addition in 1-D

$$\vec{A} + \vec{B} = \vec{C}$$

The sum of two vectors is a vector,  $\vec{C}$  is called the resultant vector of the vector addition.

### Graphical Method for adding vectors

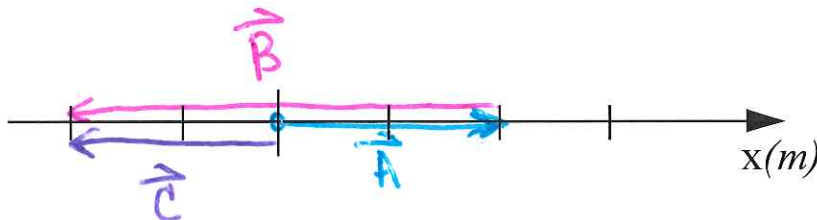


Say you want to find vector  $\vec{C} = \vec{A} + \vec{B}$

### Tip to Tail Method – Graphical Approach – Use Ruler

1. Take the tail of vector  $\vec{B}$  and connect it to the tip of vector  $\vec{A}$   
(Note: do not change the orientation of  $\vec{B}$  just “pick it up” and “pin it down”)

2. Connect the tail of  $\vec{A}$  to the tip of  $\vec{B}$  with the new vector  $\vec{C}$



Vector  $\vec{C}$  is called the **resultant vector**

### *Algebraic Method – Simple Addition*

Say you want to find vector  $\vec{C} = \vec{A} + \vec{B}$

And

$$\vec{A} = +150 \text{ m } \hat{x}$$

$$\vec{B} = -25 \text{ m } \hat{x}$$

You can always + or – vectors that are along the same axis the same as you would + or – numbers:

$$\begin{array}{r} \therefore \quad \vec{A} = + 150 \text{ m } \hat{x} \\ + \vec{B} = - 25 \text{ m } \hat{x} \\ \hline \vec{C} = 125 \text{ m } \hat{x} \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} \vec{A} = + 573.5 \text{ m } \hat{y} \\ + \vec{B} = - 43.25 \text{ m } \hat{y} \\ \hline \vec{C} = 530.25 \text{ m } \hat{y} \end{array}$$

↑  
You can have fractions/decimals  
in vectors.

## Vector Subtraction in 1-D

$$\vec{A} - \vec{B} = \vec{C}$$

Vector Subtraction is the same vector addition but now you must add the negative of the vector

$$\vec{A} + (-\vec{B}) = \vec{C}$$

Take the opposite of vector  $\vec{B}$ ,  
then add!

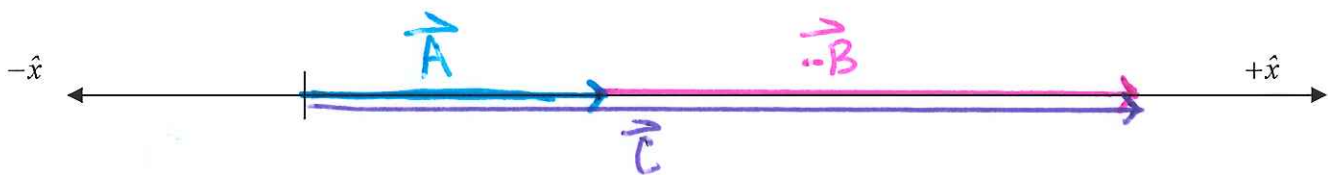
Example: Use 1cm for 1 unit below.

$$\vec{A} = 4 \hat{x}$$

$$\vec{B} = -7 \hat{x}$$

$$\vec{C} = \vec{A} - \vec{B}$$

$$-\vec{B} = 7 \hat{x}$$



Algebraic vector subtraction in 1 dimension is just like regular subtraction of numbers.

$$\vec{A} = + 4 \hat{x}$$

$$- \vec{B} = -(-7) \hat{x}$$

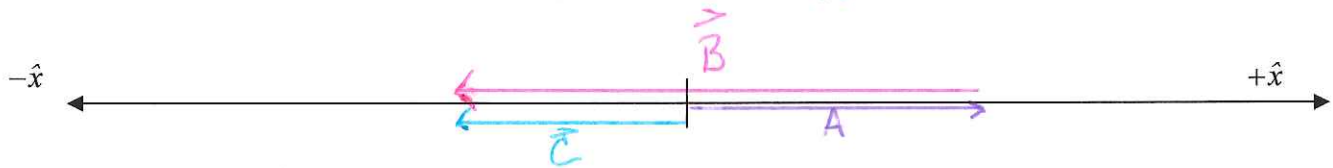
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$$\vec{C} = 11 \hat{x}$$

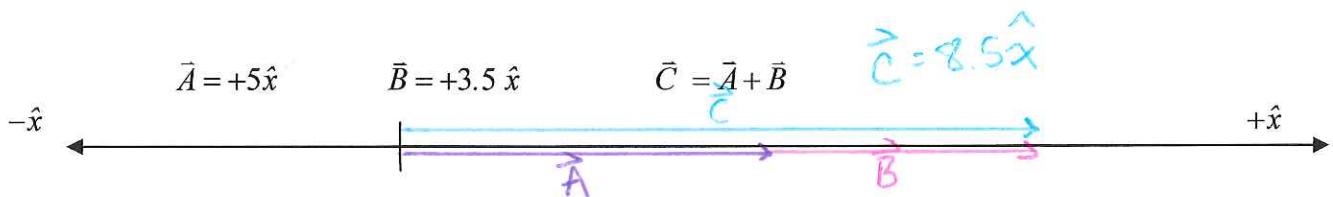
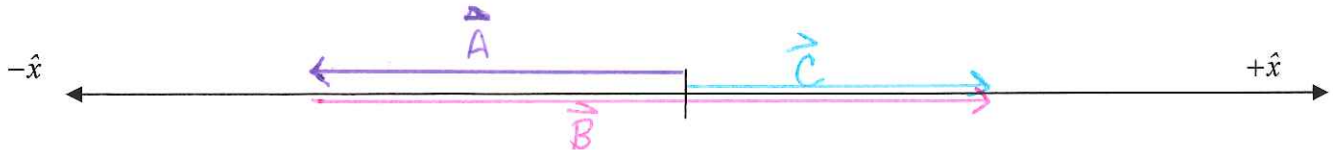
## Lesson 1 Problems: Vectors in 1-D

1. Use both the tip-to-tail and the algebraic method to determine the Resultant Vector. Use the scale that 1 cm = 1 unit for the given vectors

$$\vec{A} = 4\hat{x} \quad \vec{B} = -7\hat{x} \quad \vec{C} = \vec{A} + \vec{B} = -3\hat{x}$$



$$\vec{A} = -5\hat{x} \quad \vec{B} = +9\hat{x} \quad \vec{C} = \vec{A} + \vec{B} \quad \vec{C} = 4\hat{x}$$



2. Use both the tip-to-tail and the algebraic method to determine the Resultant Vector. Use the scale that 1 cm = 1 unit for the given vectors

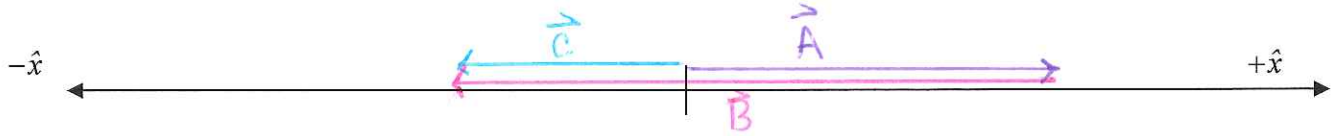
$$\vec{A} = +5\hat{x}$$

$$\vec{B} = +8\hat{x}$$

$$\vec{C} = \vec{A} - \vec{B}$$

$$\vec{C} = -3\hat{x}$$

$$-\vec{B} = -8\hat{x}$$



$$\vec{A} = -4.5\hat{x}$$

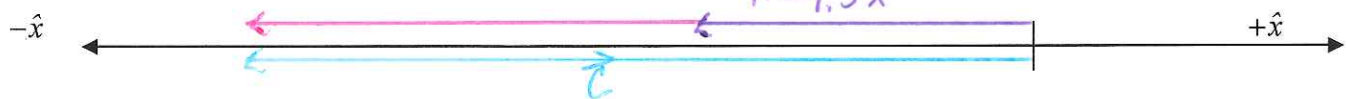
$$\vec{B} = +6\hat{x}$$

$$\vec{C} = \vec{A} - \vec{B}$$

$$\vec{C} = -10.5\hat{x}$$

$$-\vec{B} = -6\hat{x}$$

$$A = -4.5\hat{x}$$



$$\vec{A} = -5.5\hat{x}$$

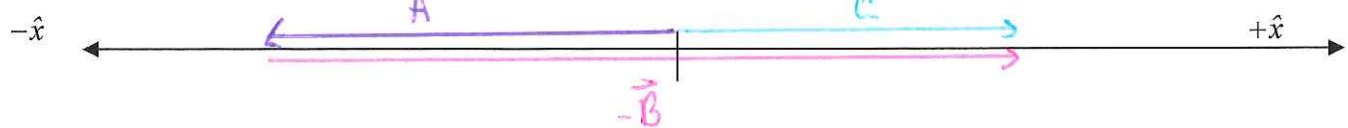
$$\vec{B} = -10\hat{x}$$

$$\vec{C} = \vec{A} - \vec{B}$$

$$\vec{C} = 4.5\hat{x}$$

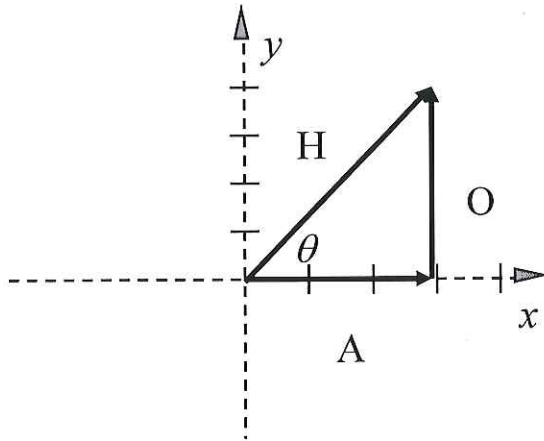
$$-\vec{B} = 10\hat{x}$$

$$A$$



## Lesson 2: Vector Components in 2-D

**Trigonometry Review** – Right Triangle Mathematics is critical for working with vectors in 2 Dimensions.



$$H^2 = O^2 + A^2$$

$$\sin\theta = \frac{O}{H}$$

$$\cos\theta = \frac{A}{H}$$

$$\tan\theta = \frac{O}{A}$$

$$\theta = \tan^{-1} \left( \frac{O}{A} \right)$$

"SOH CAH TOA"



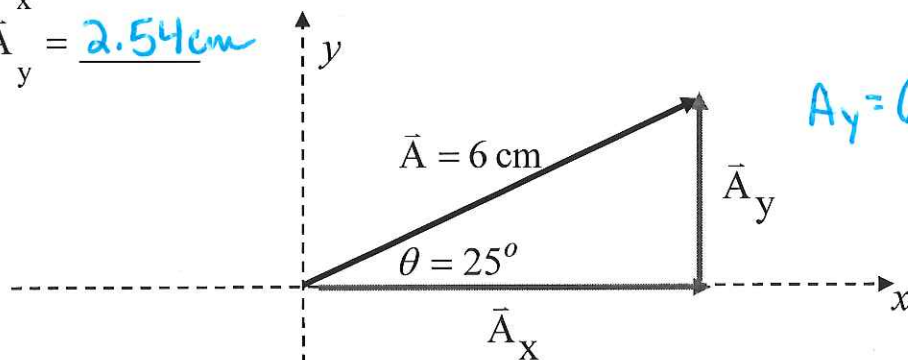
## Vector Components in 2-D

★ Any 2-D vector can be broken down into two component vectors such that

$$\vec{A} = \vec{A}_x + \vec{A}_y$$

$$\vec{A}_x = \underline{5.44\text{cm}}$$

$$\vec{A}_y = \underline{2.54\text{cm}}$$



$$A_y = 6 \sin 25 = 2.54\text{cm}$$

$$A_x = 6 \cos 25$$



Vector A written in **Component Form** is sometimes called **Cartesian Form**.  
Vector A written as a length and an angle is called **Magnitude and Direction Form** or **Polar Form**

Component form:

$$\vec{A} = -4.31\text{cm}\hat{x} + 5.52\text{cm}\hat{y}$$

Magnitude and direction form:

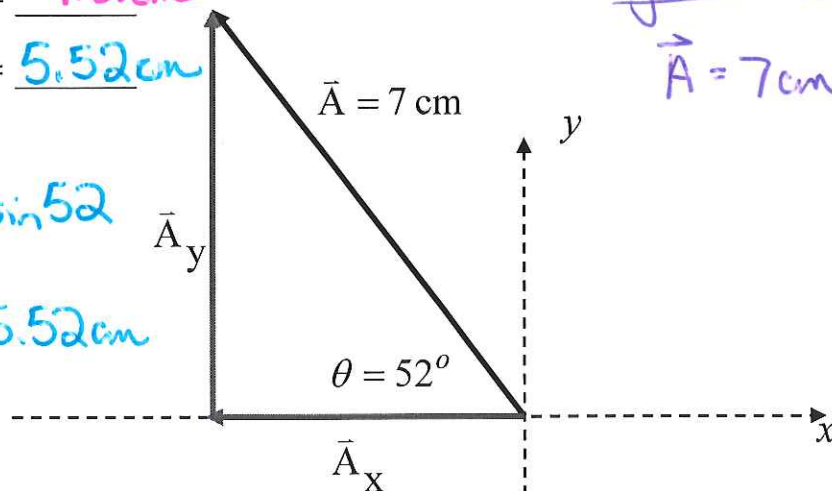
$$\vec{A} = 7\text{cm} @ 52^\circ \text{ up from } -\hat{x}$$

$$\vec{A}_x = \underline{-4.31\text{cm}}$$

$$\vec{A}_y = \underline{5.52\text{cm}}$$

$$A_y = 7 \sin 52$$

$$A_y = 5.52\text{cm}$$



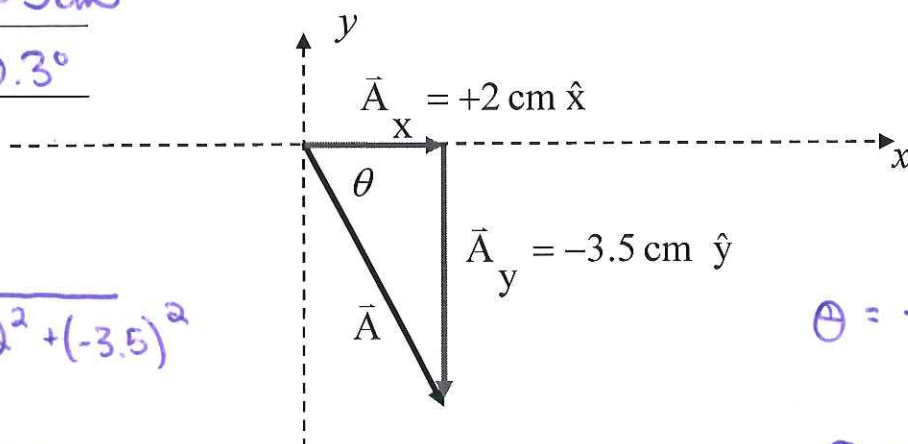
$$A_x = 7 \cos 52 = 4.31\text{cm}$$



Given the component vectors you can find the vector that they make and the angle  $\theta$ .

$$\bar{A} = \underline{4.03 \text{ cm}}$$

$$\theta = \underline{60.3^\circ}$$



$$\vec{A} = \sqrt{2^2 + (-3.5)^2}$$

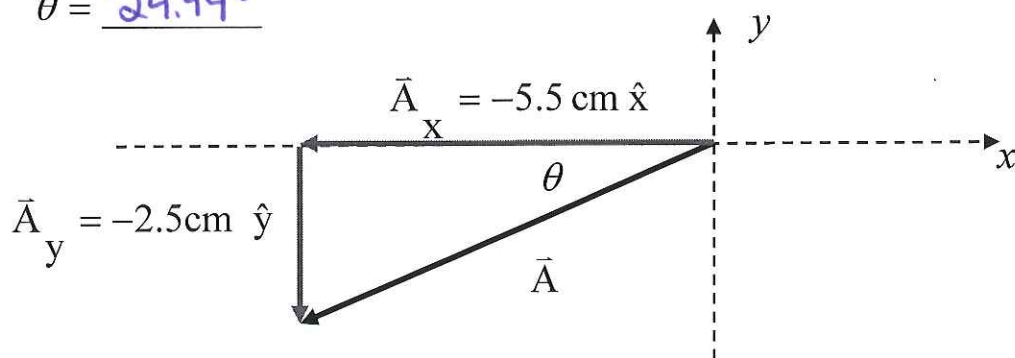
$$\vec{A} = 4.03 \text{ cm}$$

$$\theta = \tan^{-1}\left(\frac{-3.5}{2}\right)$$

$$\theta = 60.3^\circ$$

$$\bar{A} = \underline{6.0415 \text{ cm}}$$

$$\theta = \underline{24.44^\circ}$$



$$\vec{A} = \sqrt{-5.5^2 + -2.5^2} = 6.0415 \text{ cm}$$

$$\theta = \tan^{-1}\left(\frac{2.5}{5.5}\right) = 24.44^\circ$$

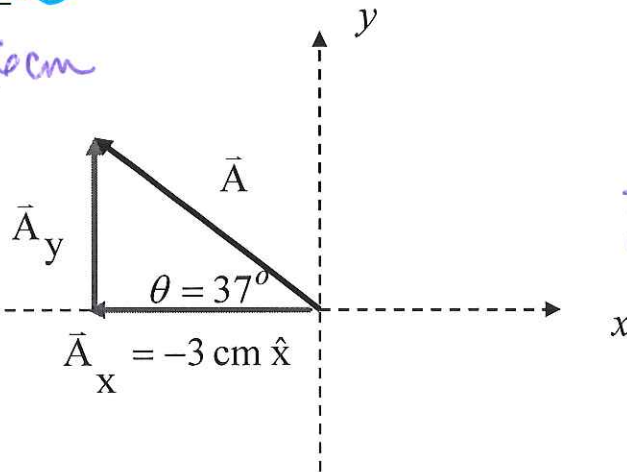
Given one component vector and the angle  $\theta$  you can find the other component vector and the vector itself.

$$\bar{A}_y = 2.26 \text{ cm}$$

$$\bar{A} = 3.756 \text{ cm}$$

$$\tan 37^\circ = \frac{\bar{A}_y}{-3}$$

$$\bar{A}_y = 2.26 \text{ cm } \hat{y}$$



$$\bar{A} = \sqrt{3^2 + 2.26^2}$$

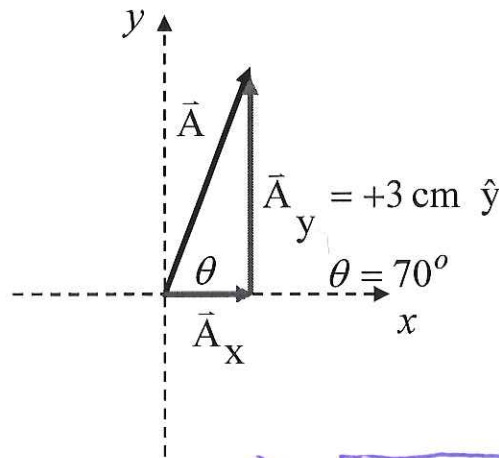
$$\bar{A} = 3.756 \text{ cm}$$

$$\bar{A}_x = 1.0919 \text{ cm } \hat{x}$$

$$\bar{A} = 3.1925 \text{ cm}$$

$$\tan 70^\circ = \frac{3}{\bar{A}_x}$$

$$\bar{A}_x = 1.0919 \text{ cm } \hat{x}$$

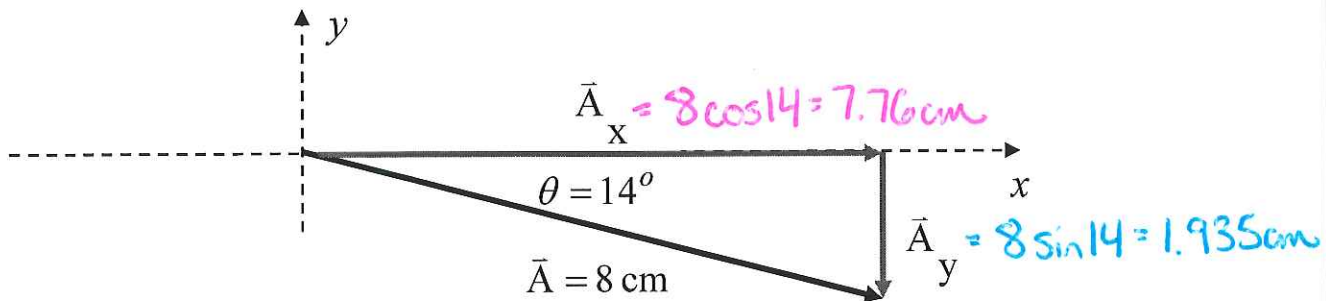


$$\bar{A} = \sqrt{3^2 + 1.0919^2} = 3.1925 \text{ cm}$$

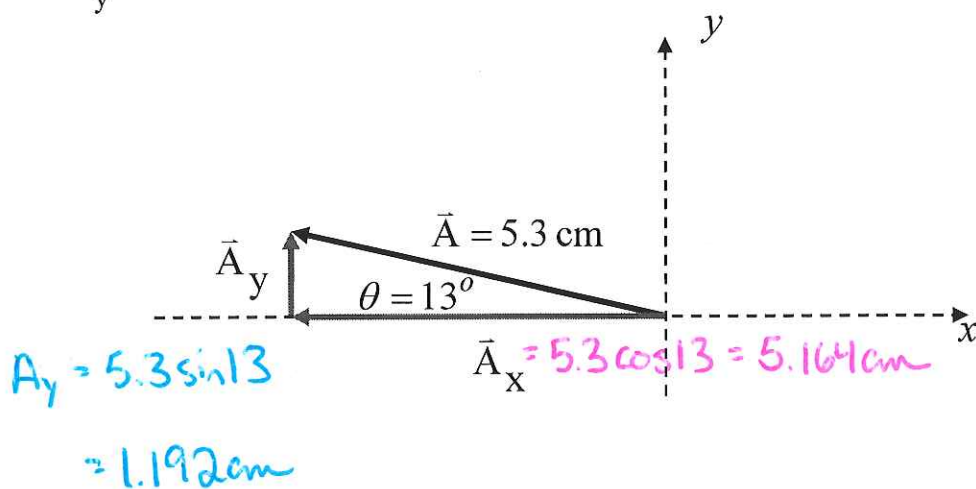
## Lesson 2 Problems: Vectors in 2-D

1. Find the component vectors given the information below

$$\begin{aligned}\vec{A}_x &= \underline{7.76 \text{ cm} \hat{x}} \\ \vec{A}_y &= \underline{-1.935 \text{ cm} \hat{y}}\end{aligned}$$



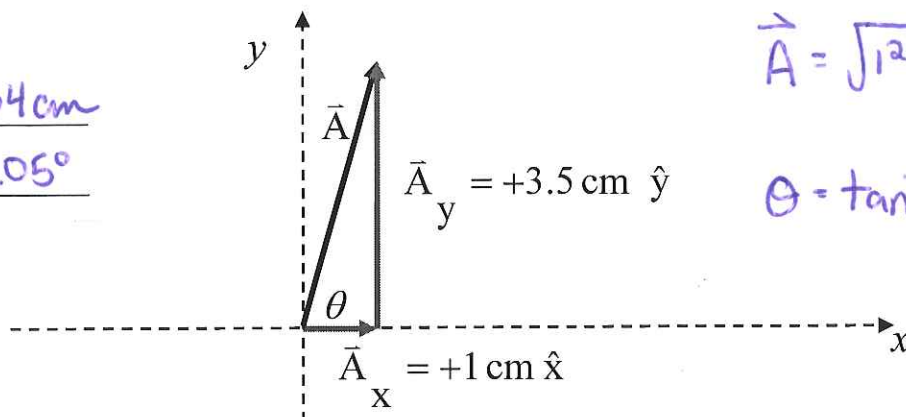
$$\begin{aligned}\vec{A}_x &= \underline{-5.164 \text{ cm}} \\ \vec{A}_y &= \underline{1.192 \text{ cm}}\end{aligned}$$



2. Find the Vector and the Angle shown below.

$$\bar{A} = \underline{3.64 \text{ cm}}$$

$$\theta = \underline{74.05^\circ}$$

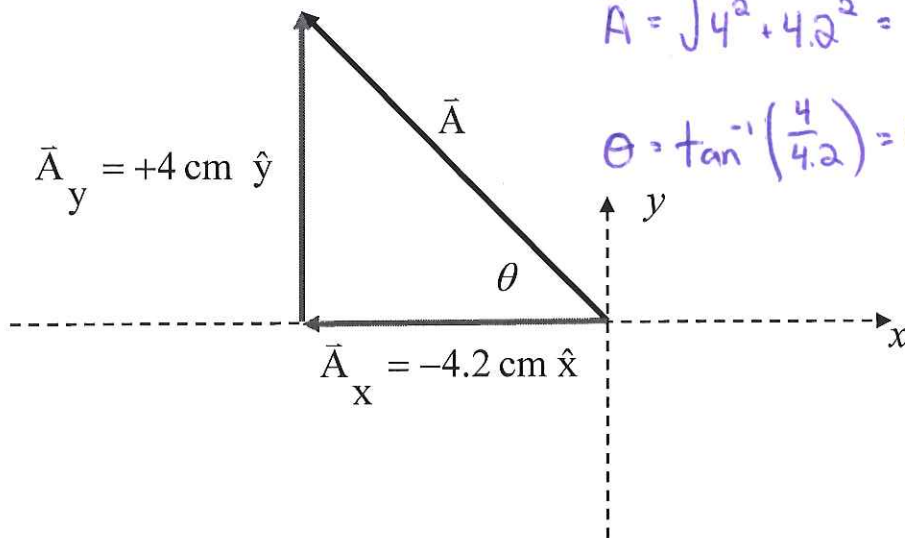


$$\bar{A} = \sqrt{1^2 + 3.5^2} = 3.64 \text{ cm}$$

$$\theta = \tan^{-1}\left(\frac{3.5}{1}\right) = 74.05^\circ$$

$$\bar{A} = \underline{5.8 \text{ cm}}$$

$$\theta = \underline{43.6^\circ}$$



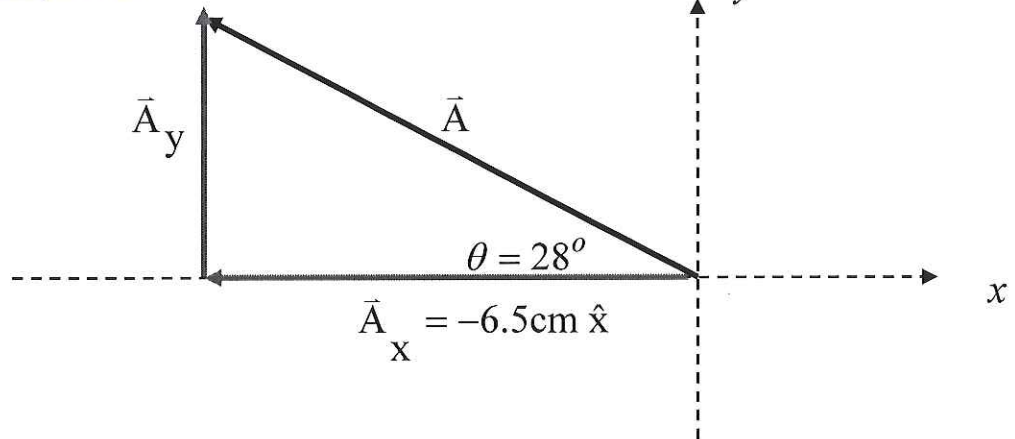
$$\bar{A} = \sqrt{4^2 + 4.2^2} = 5.8 \text{ cm}$$

$$\theta = \tan^{-1}\left(\frac{4}{4.2}\right) = 43.6^\circ$$

3. Find the component vector and the resultant vector.

$$\bar{A}_y = \underline{3.456 \text{ cm} \hat{y}}$$

$$\bar{A} = \underline{7.362 \text{ cm}}$$

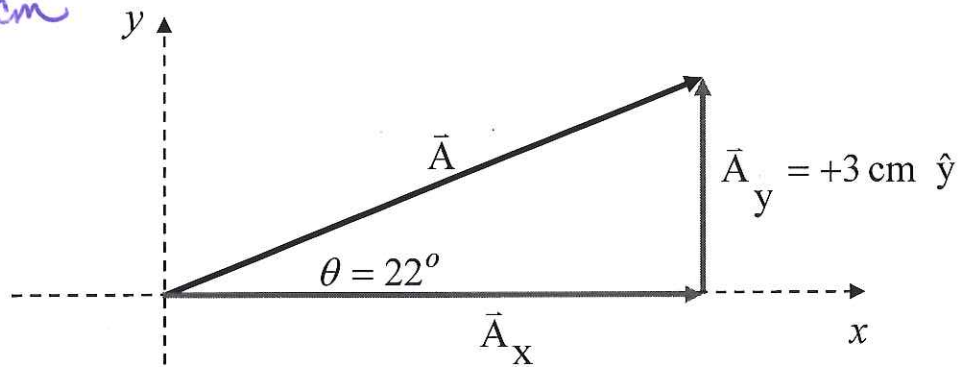


$$\tan 28 = \frac{A_y}{6.5} \Rightarrow A_y = 3.456 \text{ cm}$$

$$A = \sqrt{6.5^2 + 3.456^2} = 7.362 \text{ cm}$$

$$\bar{A}_x = \underline{7.425 \text{ cm}}$$

$$\bar{A} = \underline{8.008 \text{ cm}}$$



$$\tan 22 = \frac{3}{A_x} \rightarrow A_x = 7.425 \text{ cm}$$

$$\bar{A} = \sqrt{3^2 + 7.425^2} = 8.008 \text{ cm}$$

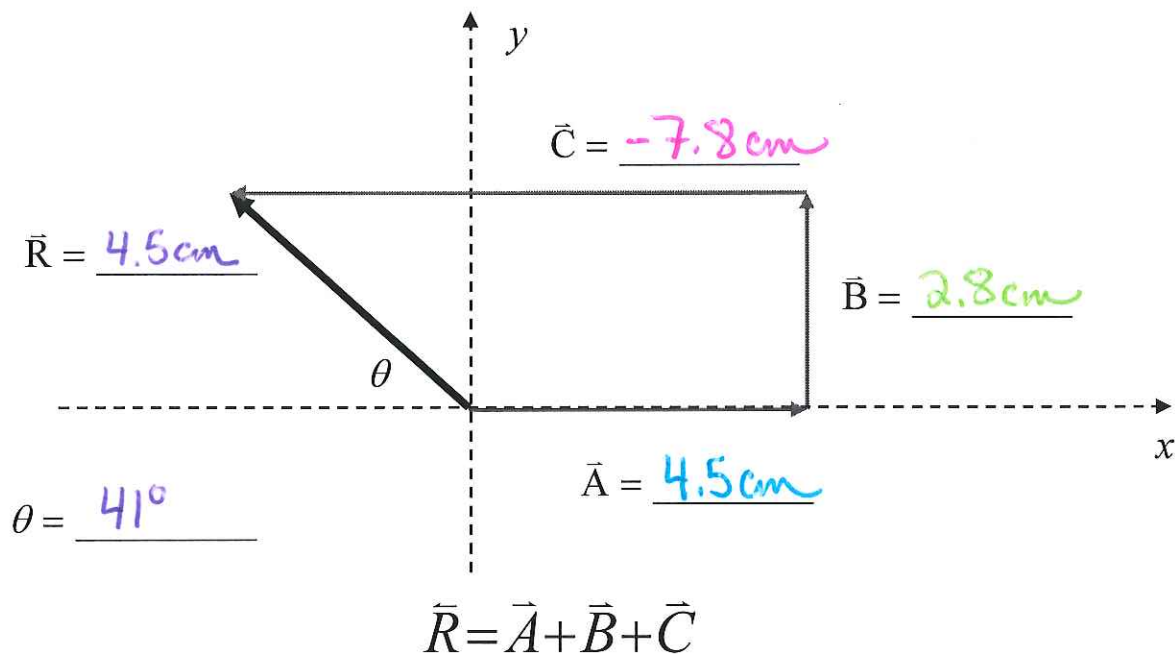
### Lesson 3: Vector Addition in 2-D

#### *Tip to Tail Method – Ruler and Protractor*

Measure vectors **A**, **B** and **C** below in **cm** and write them with unit vectors to show direction.

Measure the vector **R** with a ruler and write down its length.

Measure the angle  $\theta$  with a protractor and write it down



Now confirm that when you add and subtract the component vectors you get the correct vector **R** in **Component Form**.

$$\vec{A} = \underline{4.5\text{cm}} \hat{x} + \underline{0} \hat{y}$$

$$\vec{B} = \underline{0} \hat{x} + \underline{2.8\text{cm}} \hat{y}$$

$$\vec{C} = \underline{-7.8\text{cm}} \hat{x} + \underline{0} \hat{y}$$

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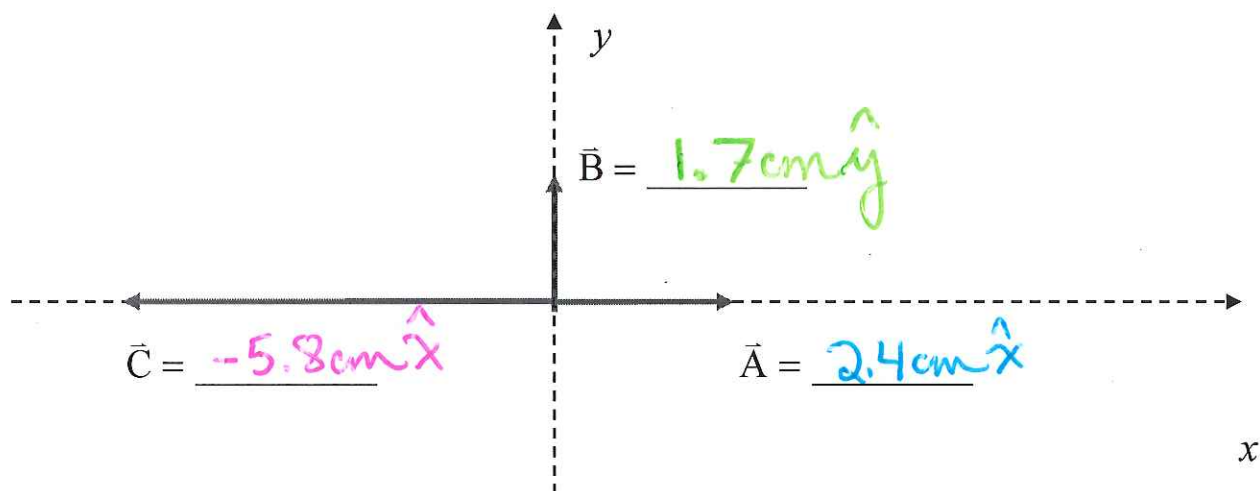

$$\vec{R} = \underline{-3.3\text{cm}} \hat{x} + \underline{2.8\text{cm}} \hat{y}$$

check:

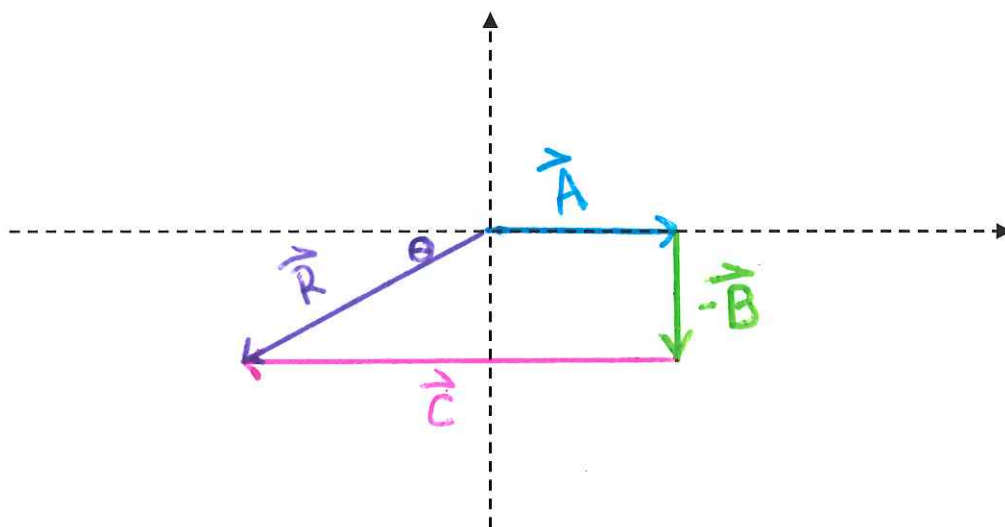
$$R = \sqrt{3.3^2 + 2.8^2} = 4.33\text{cm}$$

$$\theta = \tan^{-1}\left(\frac{2.8}{3.3}\right) = 40.3^\circ$$

Measure vectors **A**, **B** and **C** below in **cm** and write them with unit vectors to show direction.



Using a ruler and protractor show the tip-to-tail vector addition  $\mathbf{R} = \mathbf{A} - \mathbf{B} + \mathbf{C}$  below. Draw in the vector **R** and measure the angle  $\theta$  it makes with the negative x axis.



Now confirm that when you add and subtract the component vectors you get the correct vector **R** in **Component Form**.

$$\vec{A} = \underline{2.4\text{cm}} \hat{x} + \underline{0\text{cm}} \hat{y}$$

$$\vec{B} = \underline{0\text{cm}} \hat{x} + \underline{-1.7\text{cm}} \hat{y}$$

$$\vec{C} = \underline{-5.8\text{cm}} \hat{x} + \underline{0\text{cm}} \hat{y}$$

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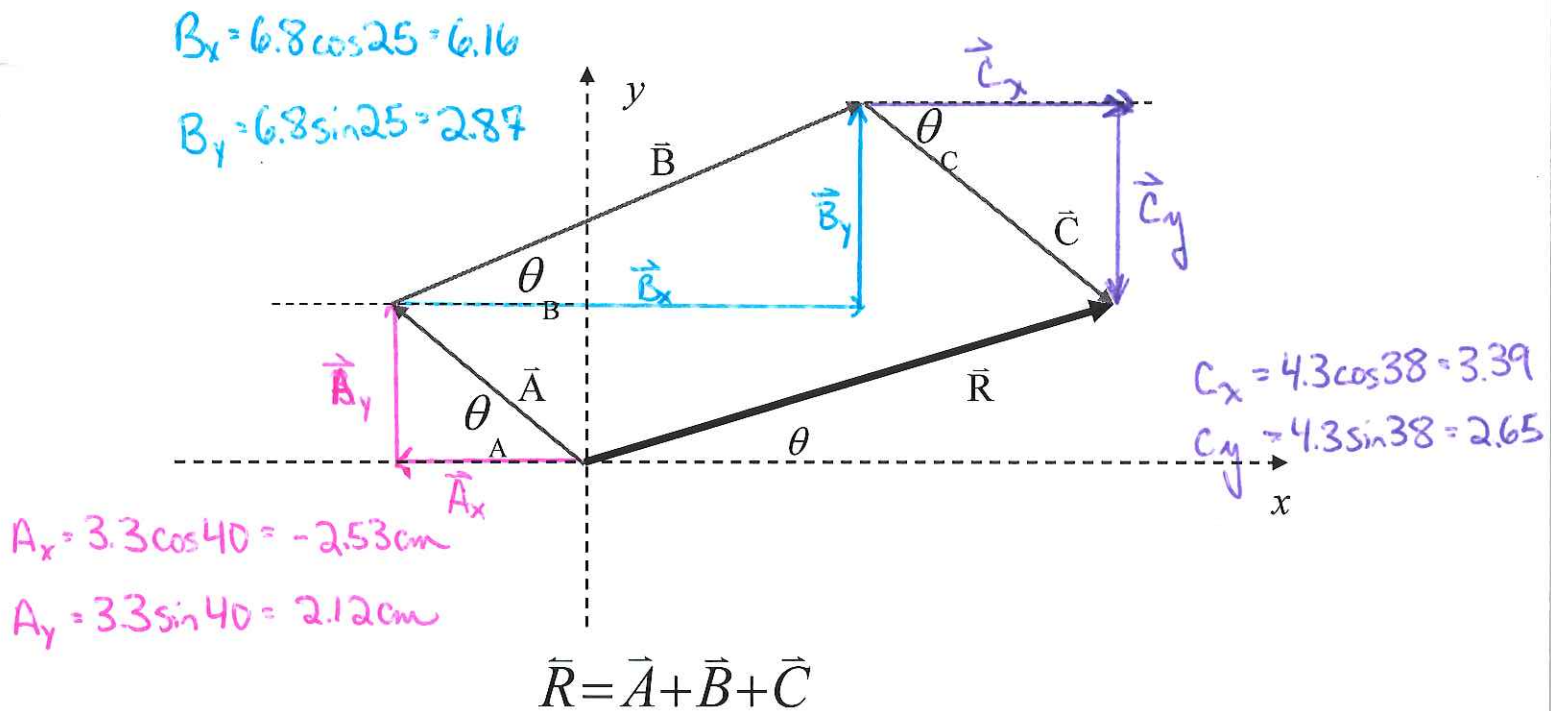

$$\vec{R} = \underline{-3.4\text{cm}} \hat{x} + \underline{-1.7\text{cm}} \hat{y}$$

$$\vec{R} = \sqrt{1.7^2 + 3.4^2} = 3.8\text{cm}$$

$$\theta = \tan^{-1}\left(\frac{1.7}{3.4}\right) = 26.565^\circ$$

$$\vec{R} = 3.8\text{cm} @ 26.6^\circ$$





Using a Ruler and Protractor write each of the vectors in Polar Form

$$\vec{A} = \underline{3.3} \text{ cm}, \quad \theta_A = \underline{40^\circ}$$

$$\vec{B} = \underline{6.8} \text{ cm}, \quad \theta_B = \underline{25^\circ}$$

$$\vec{C} = \underline{4.3} \text{ cm}, \quad \theta_C = \underline{38^\circ}$$

$$\vec{R} = \underline{7.4} \text{ cm}, \quad \theta = \underline{17^\circ}$$

Using Right Triangle Math calculate the following components and verify the addition of the 3 vectors in component form corresponds to the polar form above.

$$\vec{A} = \underline{-2.53} \hat{x} + \underline{2.12} \hat{y}$$

$$\vec{B} = \underline{6.16} \hat{x} + \underline{2.87} \hat{y}$$

$$\vec{C} = \underline{3.39} \hat{x} + \underline{-2.65} \hat{y}$$

$$\vec{R} = \underline{7.02} \hat{x} + \underline{2.34} \hat{y}$$

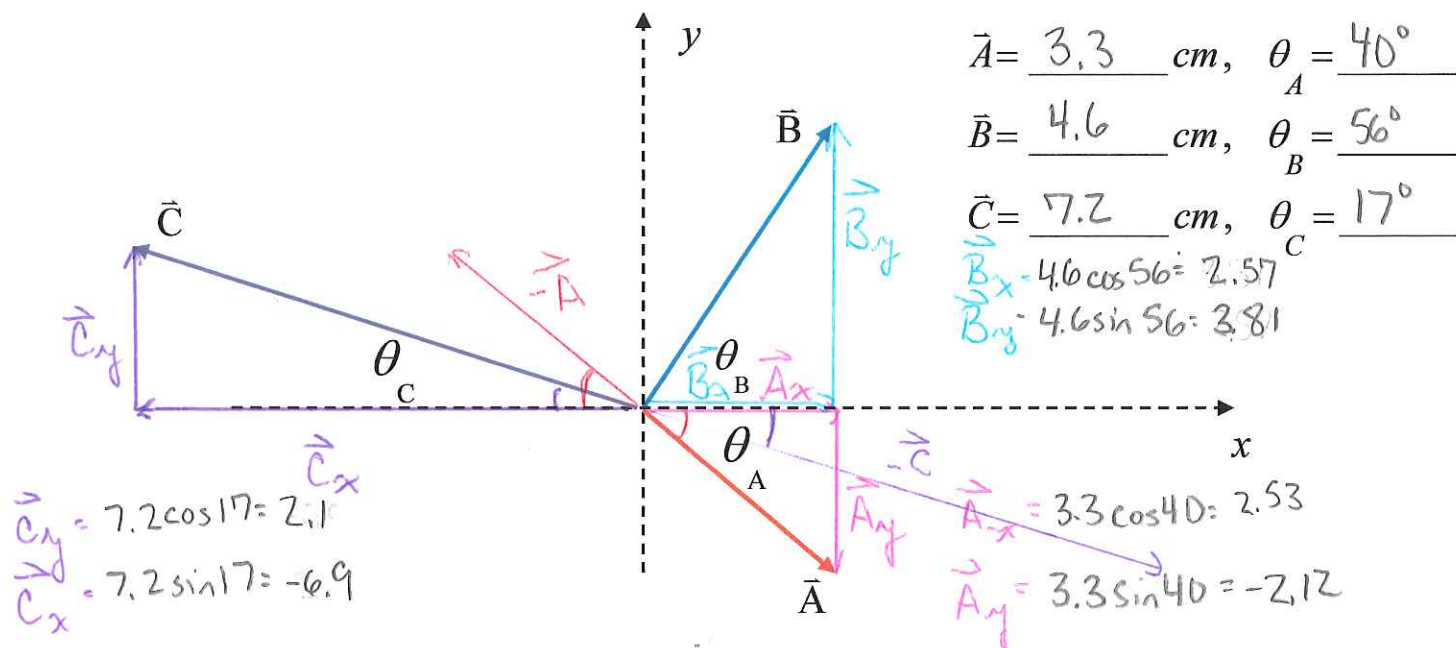
check:

$$\vec{R} = \sqrt{7.02^2 + 2.34^2} =$$

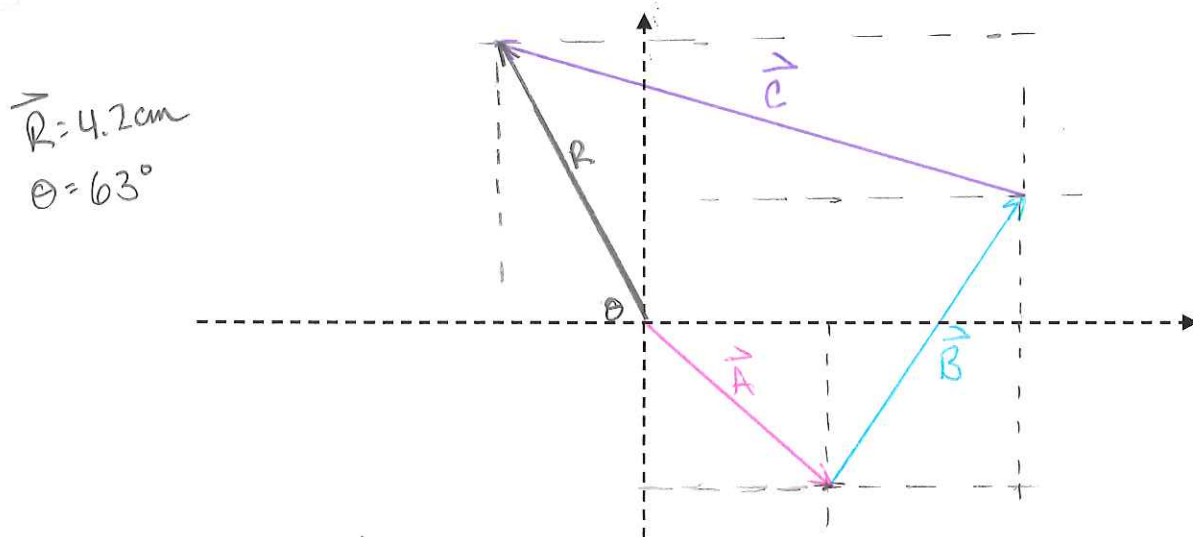
$$\vec{R} = 7.4 \text{ cm} \checkmark$$

$$\theta = \tan^{-1}\left(\frac{2.34}{7.02}\right) = 18.4^\circ \checkmark$$

Using a ruler and protractor write down the vectors in Polar Form



Using a ruler and protractor show the tip-to-tail vector addition  $\vec{R} = \vec{A} + \vec{B} + \vec{C}$  below. Draw in the vector  $\vec{R}$  and measure the angle  $\theta$  it makes with the negative x axis.



Calculate the component form of each of the vectors and confirm that the vector  $\vec{R}$  is the same as

$$\vec{A} = \underline{2.53} \hat{x} + \underline{-2.12} \hat{y}$$

$$\vec{B} = \underline{2.57} \hat{x} + \underline{3.81} \hat{y}$$

$$\vec{C} = \underline{-6.9} \hat{x} + \underline{2.1} \hat{y}$$

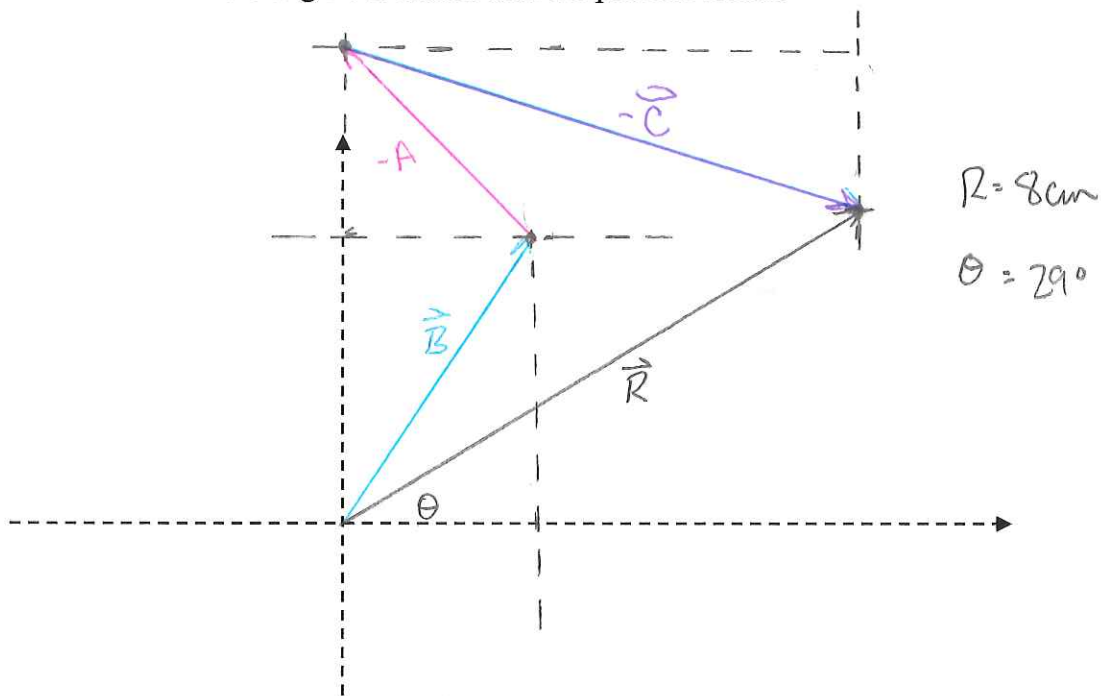
$$\vec{R} = \underline{-1.8} \hat{x} + \underline{3.79} \hat{y}$$

$$R = \sqrt{1.8^2 + 3.79^2} = 4.2 \text{ cm}$$

$$\theta = \tan^{-1}\left(\frac{3.79}{1.8}\right)$$

$$\theta = 64.6^\circ$$

Using a ruler and protractor show the tip-to-tail vector addition  $\mathbf{R} = \mathbf{B} - \mathbf{A} - \mathbf{C}$  below. Draw in the vector  $\mathbf{R}$  and measure the angle  $\theta$  it makes with the positive x axis.



Calculate the component form of each of the vectors and confirm that the vector  $\mathbf{R}$  is the same as

$$\begin{aligned} \vec{A} &= -2.53 \hat{x} + 2.12 \hat{y} \\ \vec{B} &= 2.57 \hat{x} + 3.81 \hat{y} \\ \vec{C} &= 6.91 \hat{x} + -2.1 \hat{y} \\ \hline \vec{R} &= 6.94 \hat{x} + 3.83 \hat{y} \end{aligned}$$

$$|\vec{R}| = \sqrt{6.94^2 + 3.83^2} = 7.72 \text{ cm}$$

$$\theta = \tan^{-1}\left(\frac{3.83}{6.94}\right) = 28.89^\circ$$

Lesson 3 Problems:Vector Addition in 2-D

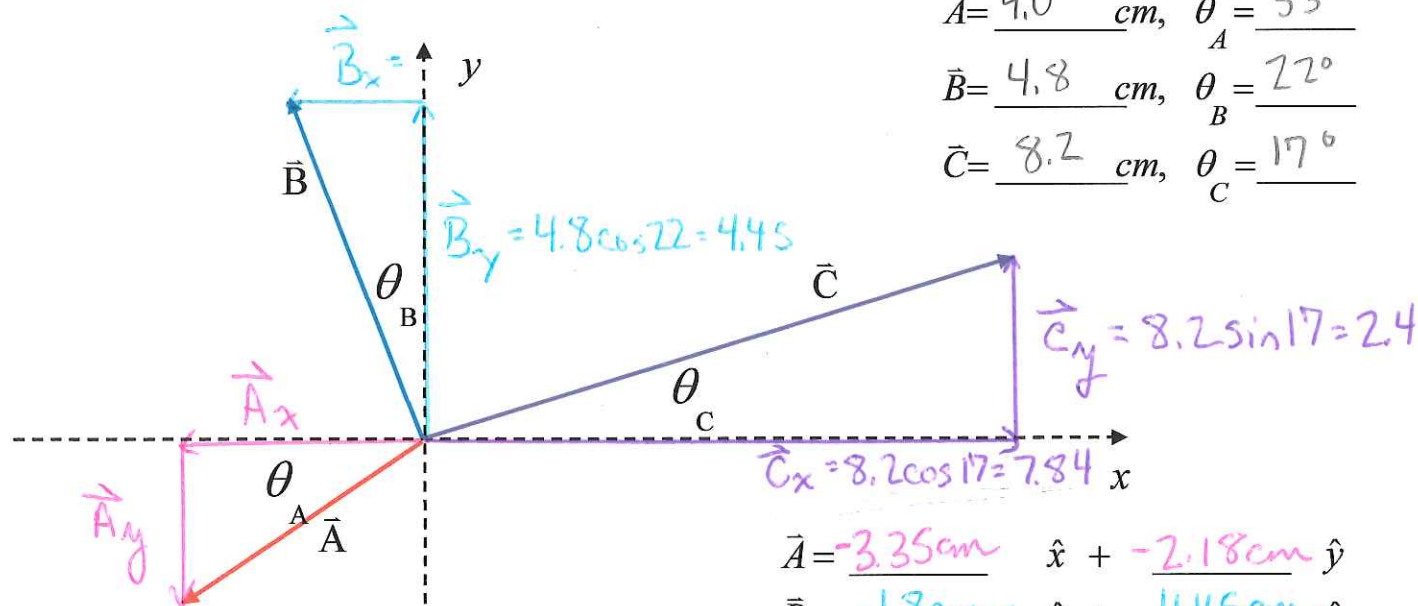
1. Using a Ruler and Protractor write each of the vectors in Polar Form. Then calculate the component form of each of the vectors and calculate that the vector  $\mathbf{R}$  in Component Form.

$$\vec{B}_x = 4.8 \sin 22^\circ = 1.8 \text{ cm}$$

$$\vec{A} = \underline{4.0} \text{ cm}, \theta_A = \underline{33^\circ}$$

$$\vec{B} = \underline{4.8} \text{ cm}, \theta_B = \underline{22^\circ}$$

$$\vec{C} = \underline{8.2} \text{ cm}, \theta_C = \underline{17^\circ}$$



$$\vec{A} = \underline{-3.35 \text{ cm}} \hat{x} + \underline{-2.18 \text{ cm}} \hat{y}$$

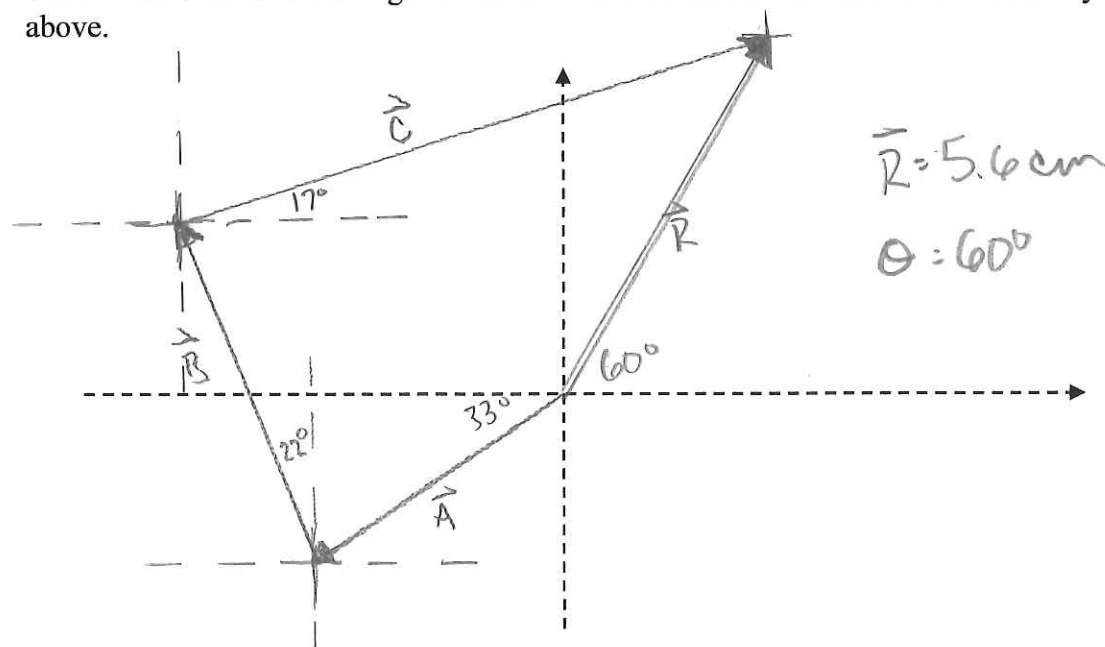
$$\vec{B} = \underline{-1.8 \text{ cm}} \hat{x} + \underline{4.45 \text{ cm}} \hat{y}$$

$$\vec{C} = \underline{7.84 \text{ cm}} \hat{x} + \underline{2.4 \text{ cm}} \hat{y}$$

$$\vec{R} = \underline{2.69} \hat{x} + \underline{4.67} \hat{y}$$

$$\vec{R} = \vec{A} + \vec{B} + \vec{C}$$

Using a ruler and protractor show the tip-to-tail vector addition of  $\mathbf{A} + \mathbf{B} + \mathbf{C}$  below. Draw in the vector  $\mathbf{R}$  and measure the angle  $\theta$  it makes with the x axis. Confirm that it matches your answer above.

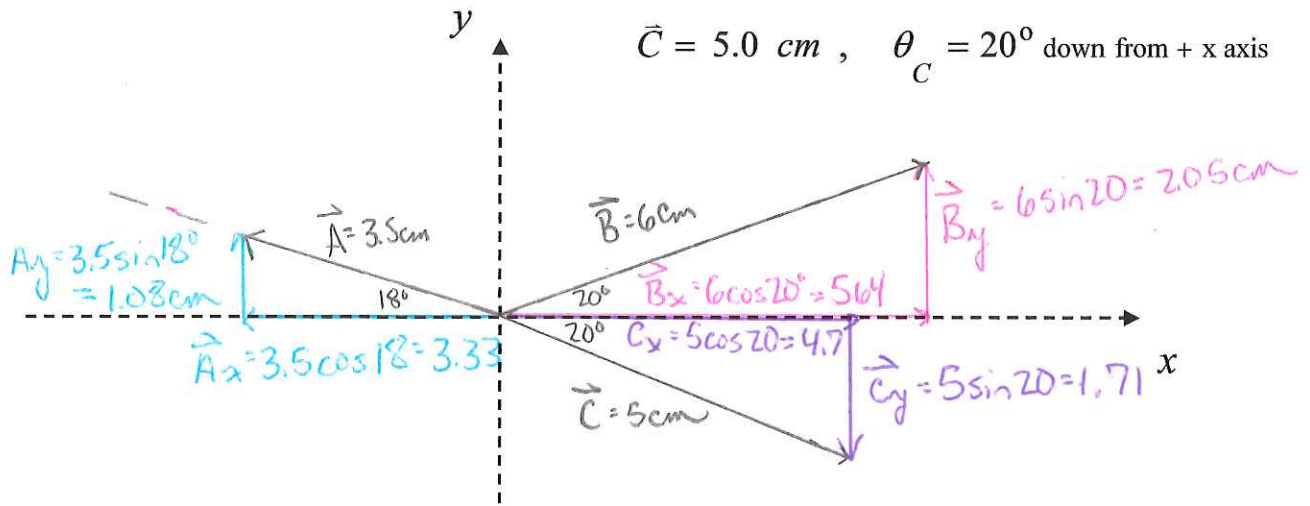


2. Draw in the following vectors below.

$$\vec{A} = 3.5 \text{ cm}, \quad \theta_A = 18^\circ \text{ up from } -x \text{ axis}$$

$$\vec{B} = 6.0 \text{ cm}, \quad \theta_B = 20^\circ \text{ up from } +x \text{ axis}$$

$$\vec{C} = 5.0 \text{ cm}, \quad \theta_C = 20^\circ \text{ down from } +x \text{ axis}$$



Calculate the component form of each of the vectors and calculate that the vector  $\vec{R} = \vec{A} + \vec{B} + \vec{C}$  in Component Form.

$$\vec{A} = \underline{-3.33} \hat{x} + \underline{1.08 \text{ cm}} \hat{y}$$

$$\vec{B} = \underline{5.64 \text{ cm}} \hat{x} + \underline{2.05 \text{ cm}} \hat{y}$$

$$\vec{C} = \underline{4.7 \text{ cm}} \hat{x} + \underline{-1.71} \hat{y}$$

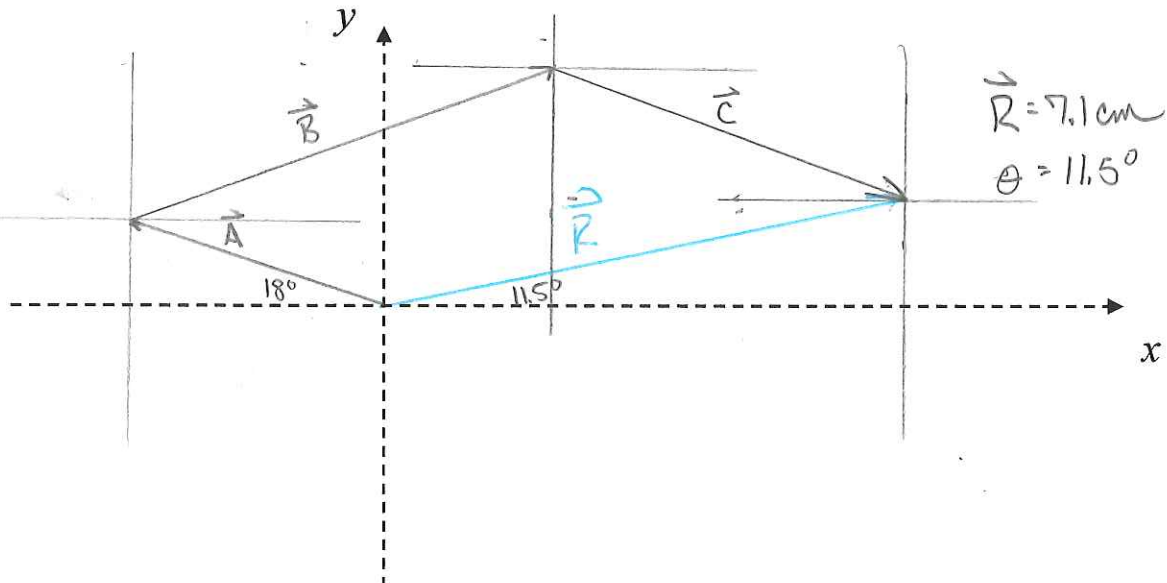
$$\vec{R} = \underline{7.01} \hat{x} + \underline{1.42} \hat{y}$$

$$R = \sqrt{7.01^2 + 1.42^2}$$

$$R = 7.15 \text{ cm}$$

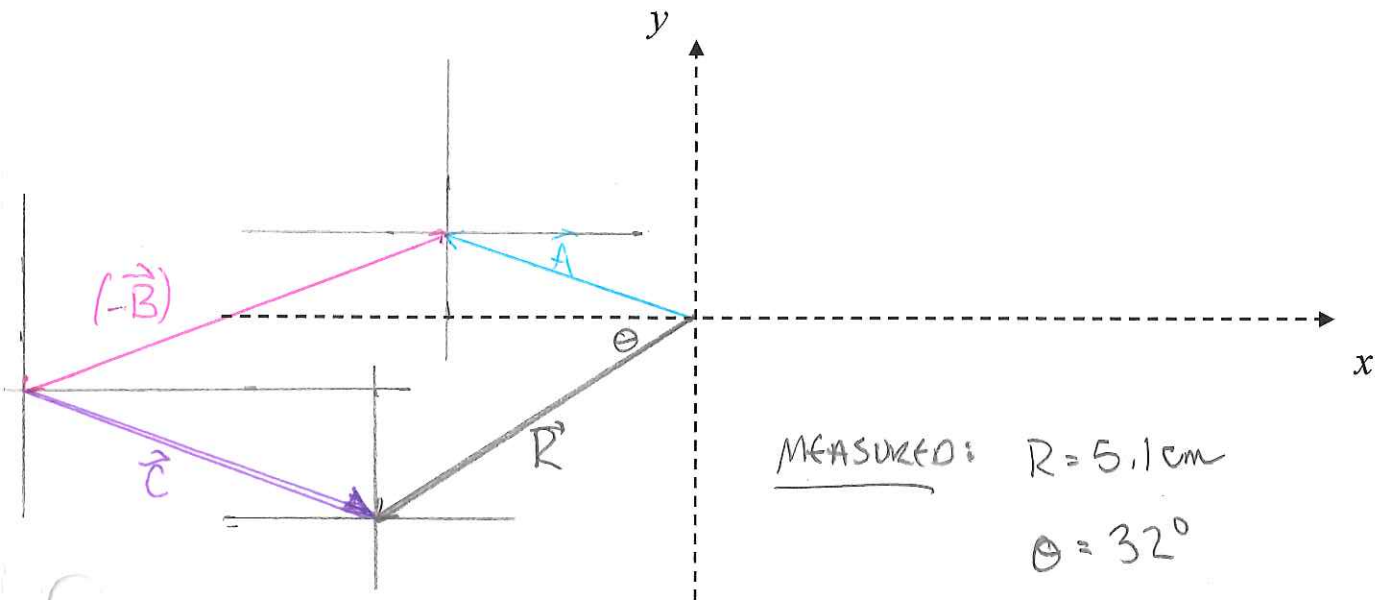
$$\theta = \tan^{-1}\left(\frac{1.42}{7.01}\right) = 11.45^\circ$$

Using a ruler and protractor show the tip-to-tail vector addition of  $\vec{A} + \vec{B} + \vec{C}$  below. Draw in the vector  $\vec{R}$  and measure the angle  $\theta$  it makes with the  $x$  axis. Confirm that it matches your answer above.





Using a ruler and protractor show the tip-to-tail vector addition of  $\mathbf{A} - \mathbf{B} + \mathbf{C}$  below. Draw in the vector  $\mathbf{R}$  and measure the angle  $\theta$  it makes with the x axis. Confirm that it matches your answer above.



$$\begin{aligned}\vec{A} &= -3.33\hat{x} + 1.08\hat{y} \\ + (-\vec{B}) &= -5.64\hat{x} + -2.05\hat{y} \\ + \vec{C} &= 4.2\hat{x} + -1.71\hat{y}\end{aligned}$$

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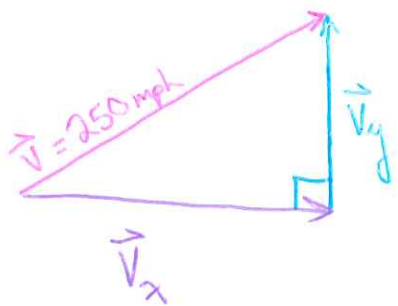

$$\vec{R} = -4.27\hat{x} - 2.68\hat{y}$$

$$R = \sqrt{4.27^2 + 2.68^2} = 5.04 \text{ cm}$$

$$\theta = \tan^{-1}\left(\frac{2.68}{4.27}\right) = 32.1^\circ$$

## Vector Problems with Physics Applications

1. A plane is flying at an angle of  $35^\circ$  to the horizontal ground at a speed of 250 mi/hr. If the sun is directly overhead shining straight down, how fast is the shadow of the plane moving along the ground. That is, calculate the x-component of the speed of the plane.



$$\vec{V}_x = 250 \cos 35^\circ$$

$$\boxed{\vec{V}_x = 204.8 \text{ mph } \hat{x}}$$

2. A man walks 2 miles east, 3 miles north, and then 7 miles  $30^\circ$  north of west. What was his displacement in both **magnitude and direction** and **component** form? Calculate your answer both analytically and with a ruler and protractor.

$$\vec{A} = 2 \text{ mi } \hat{x} + 0 \text{ mi } \hat{y}$$

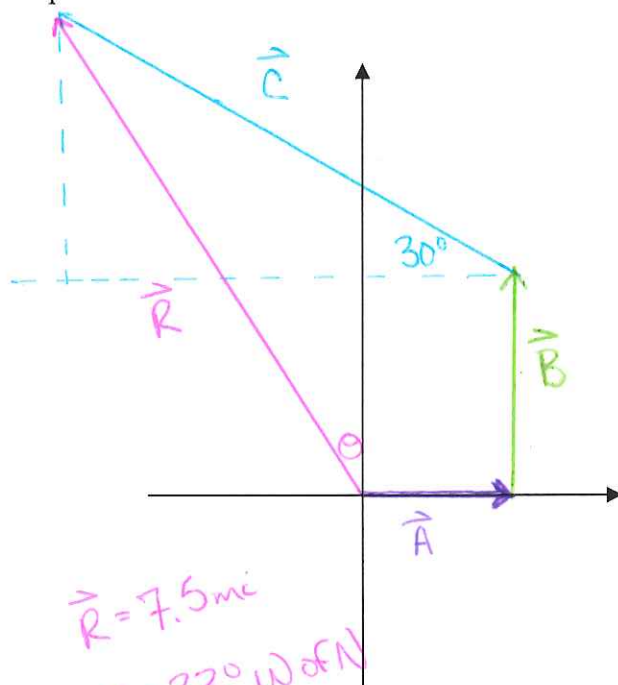
$$\vec{B} = 0 \text{ mi } \hat{x} + 3 \text{ mi } \hat{y}$$

$$\vec{C} = -7 \cos 30^\circ \hat{x} + 7 \sin 30^\circ \hat{y}$$

$$\vec{R} = -4.06 \text{ mi } \hat{x} + 6.5 \text{ mi } \hat{y}$$

$$R = \sqrt{4.06^2 + 6.5^2} = 7.7 \text{ mi}$$

$$\theta = \tan^{-1}\left(\frac{4.06}{6.5}\right) = 32^\circ$$

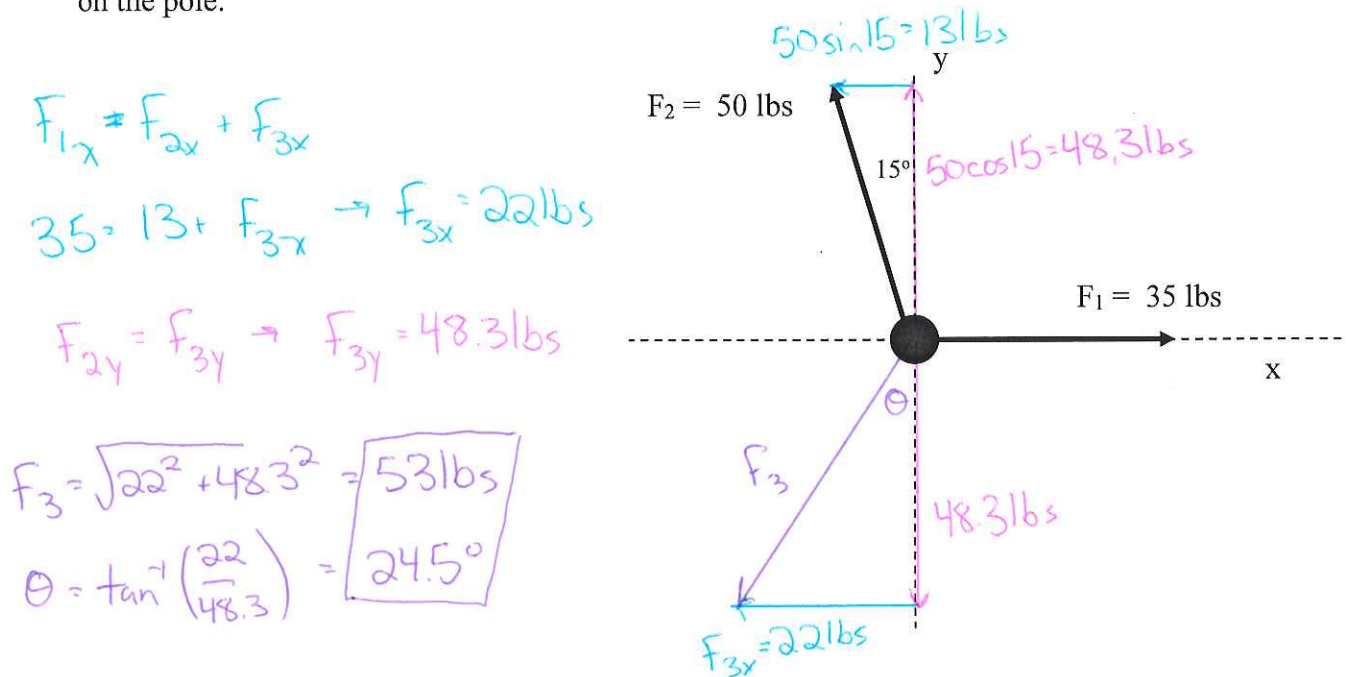


$$\vec{R} = 7.5 \text{ mi}$$

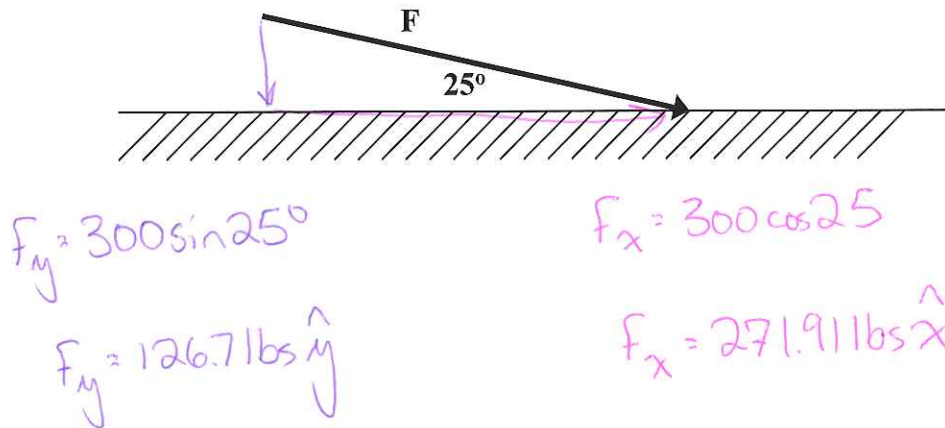
$$\theta = 33^\circ \text{ W of N}$$



3. A pole has 3 ropes tied to it with the forces shown for 2 of the ropes. Calculate the force and the angle  $\theta$  that would be required of the 3<sup>rd</sup> rope so that no resultant force is exerted on the pole.



4. If a force  $F$  of 300 lbs is pushing on a flat surface at an angle of  $25^\circ$  as shown, how much of the force is acting along the surface and how much of the force is pushing directly down into the surface.



5. A rocket is moving vertically upward with a speed of 2 km/s. How fast to the right would the thrusters have to make the rocket go if you want the rocket to travel at  $20^\circ$  to the vertical? What would be the overall speed of the rocket at that point?

